



Brownfields 2006 Grant Fact Sheet

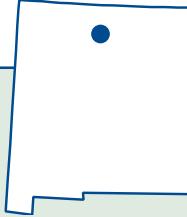
Picuris Pueblo, Picuris Pueblo Indian Reservation, NM

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

Picuris Pueblo was selected to receive a brownfields cleanup grant. Picuris Pueblo (330 members) is a federally recognized tribe and the smallest of New Mexico's indigenous nations. Settled since about 800 A.D., the Picuris Pueblo settlement is one of the country's oldest continuously inhabited settlements. The tribe's median income is \$11,528, 36 percent of families live below the federal poverty level, and 19 percent of residents are unemployed. Beginning in the 1950s, small local mining companies began exploring the cleanup site. Industrial-scale production began



Cleanup Grant



\$140,137 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected Picuris Pueblo for a brownfields cleanup grant. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to reclaim mine-scarred land at the U.S. Hill Mica Mine site, ten miles south of Ranchos de Taos. The area was an important cultural site once used by the tribe for small-scale gathering of micaceous clay for making traditional pottery, but was later used to extract and process minerals. It contains unsafe conditions, and contributes to area contamination. Grant funds also will be used for community outreach activities.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

EPA Region 6 Brownfields Team
214-665-2241

<http://www.epa.gov/region6/brownfields>

Grant Recipient: Picuris Pueblo, NM
505-587-2519

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

there in 1988, and between 1999 and 2004, the site was the largest mica mine west of the Mississippi River. The site has been blighted by mining, and has contributed to siltation and erosion from uncontrolled stormwater runoff. Picuris Pueblo has suffered from the loss of sacred space and the traditions tied to the site. The cleanup grant will enable the tribe to restore the site, protecting water, land, and habitat. It will also allow the tribe to use the site for sacred activities. Finally, it will provide economic development opportunities through the crafting and sale of micaceous pottery.